

Lincoln School Parents' Association Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the November 12, 2009 LSPA meeting were reviewed and approved.

Health Fair Update, Andrea Cogan:

The planned date is February 12, 2010. The objective is to bring in outside people from the community and beyond to teach the children how to live a healthy lifestyle. Andrea asked for parent volunteers to call and confirm presenters, as well as to act as "tour guides," directing the flow of children on the 12th (need 1½ hours for each section: K-2 will attend morning, grades 3-5 in the afternoon.) Meeting attendees volunteered to help during the meeting; Linda McDonough took their names and will email them with more details.

Andrea also mentioned that the health fair organizers may need funds from the LSPA for speakers, etc., but she would get a ballpark and come back to the association. Examples of speakers: Jeanine Lavois, Director of Wellness for the district, on nutrition; Nicole Bacon, yoga; internet and computer safety; demo by high school children from each sport, to showcase protective gear and do a demo.

Terry Lannon, Winchester Schools Art Director:

Terry began by thanking the LSPA for all the support the parents provide for art in the Lincoln school and in the greater community. He always welcomes new parents to get involved to support the school arts program and act as liaisons with all the schools. Role of liaisons is to meet as a group (evening hours) and discuss how best to communicate the great art work our children are creating.

Winchester Friend for the Arts is holding their annual fundraiser, Party for the Arts, on March 27, 2010 at the Sons of Italy hall. This is the organization's major fundraiser to buy kilns and many of the supplies used in the schools that are not covered by school budgets. Terry is asking for volunteers to help the event, including publicity, pictures, party planners, writers, etc. If you are interested, please contact Terry at tlannon@winchester.k12.ma.us

Terry also mentioned that the director of Kidstock wants to bring "Art in Bloom" to the schools. The concept is that children would draw pictures (of anything), and professional florists interpret the drawings into flower arrangements. This would be a joint fundraiser, so if there are parents interested in helping, please contact Terry.

Finally, the website for the Lincoln art classes is almost done. The site will be password protected. Be on the look-out for the launch and the opportunity to view Lincoln students' work on-line!

5th Grade Committee Updates:

Lynn Phillips opened it up with a thank you to Kate Scanlon and Andrea Cogan and everyone else who agreed to move Field Day to June 10, 2010 so that the 5th grade pool party could be held on June 11th (rain date June 15th.) She also thanked the committee members who worked on the ice cream social. It was a huge success – profitable and lots of fun.

The Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 8:30 – 11am. The price is \$5/individual and \$20 per family, open to the greater community. This is the last major 5th-grade fundraiser left for the year. Posters are already up in the school and around the town.

O'Brien rink has been reserved for the 5th grade ice skating party on January 27th. Rental skate sizes are very limited, so try to get skates in advance.

The growing up and reaching out committee continues to do an amazing job setting up numerous activities where the 5th graders can give their time to help the greater community.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report ending December 31, 2009 was reviewed and approved. The closing balance at the end of the month was \$41,456.42. YTD Revenue is \$22,929.30 versus a budget of \$31,950.00. Susan Fagerstrom reported that, due primarily to the lagging donations to the Direct Appeal this year, the LSPA could run a deficit of \$2-3,000. Susan has already adjusted some line items to cover the original estimate of a \$5,000 deficit.

Donna Salvatore provided the specific numbers for the Direct Appeal. As of this meeting, the Direct Appeal stands at \$22,000 with 50% of families participating. Last year at this time, ~60% of families had participated, and we ended the year at 66%. Donna is hoping that we will get another \$3,000 to match last year's giving level (the '09-'10 budget is \$27,000.) Donna is considering another letter to explain what the Direct Appeal is and does for the school. The goal is to increase the number of families participating and try not to "double-dip" on families who have already given at least once. Discussion ensued as to the best content, approach, and delivery method.

Please refer to the Treasurer's report dated 12/31/09 for further details about revenue and expenses.

Alison Bayiates, Mentor Program:

Alison reported that ~100 4th and 5th graders will be involved in the program this year. There are 29 topics offered, some very unique, and ~85% of the kids got their first choice. At this point, children have been matched with their mentors. The kids are being divided into groups (of 3-4) headed by a committee member to oversee program experience and ensure it goes as planned. This year, all correspondence will be electronic, and the first email will be sent in the next few weeks, outlining the details. Alison hoped to stop into the cafeteria to inform the kids to be looking for the email.

Mentor Appreciation will be held on April 29 from 6-7:30pm. More details to come.

Susan McPhee, Energy Audits:

Susan introduced herself as the new energy conservation coordinator for Winchester and is working hard with all key members of the schools and the town to reduce energy waste and cost. The town spends \$2-3million per year to power all the municipal buildings. Susan works with the Energy Management Committee, an all-volunteer group that assesses costs and identifies opportunities for savings.

Susan shared energy use data and trends for the Lincoln school. Overall, Lincoln's efforts have been great, and she thanked Kate Scanlon for her openness and eagerness to make the right improvements in the school's energy use. Year over year, Lincoln school has reduced electricity use by 0.5%, a modest number masking the fact the school was open this summer and had to be cooled. Lincoln saw significant savings year-over-year in the September-December timeframe, and is down 20% in use versus 2 years ago.

Susan and Kate are focusing on gathering data on the huge temperature swings the school experiences from one area to the next. If they quantify the savings to the town, a "fix" can be implemented, probably involving a "reconditioning" of the vents. A similar project at the Lynch school yielded a 30% savings in fuel and 8% in electricity.

Another initiative across the town is the use of solar energy. Solar panels have been installed at the high school as a test to compare difference in cost to heat 2-3 rooms with solar energy versus traditional methods. Massachusetts is creating incentives for use of green energy, and Winchester is jumping in. The transfer station is a target for such a change, as it represents 10% of the town's energy use.

In some updates of activities happening in the town, Susan informed the LSPA that idling laws are now in effect in Winchester. It is now illegal to leave your car running when it is in park. The Board of Selectmen is looking for recommendations of people to sit on a new Climate Action Plan committee. They are targeting the committee to begin in February with a goal of a September report presentation.

Junior Great Books:

Linda McDonough presented in place of Jen Degnan. The program will take on a different form this year, due to some lingering issues from the past, namely: 1) the on-going challenges of scheduling and utilizing the amount of space the program required, 2) a decline in parent volunteers, and 3) a dissatisfaction about which stories were chosen.

New program being piloted will be called "Literary Lunches." With Barbara Tully's help, the committee selected age-appropriate books by grade level (with the exception of kindergarten.) The program will run for 4 weeks with a lunch one time per week to which parents are invited. This pilot is therefore two weeks shorter than the Junior Great Books. There will be a survey sent out at the end to determine how the pilot worked.

Jen is looking for parent volunteers by grade. The kick-off date is still to be determined.

Principal's Report:

Kate Scanlon stated that Math/Science Night is planned for May 5th in the evening. The enrichment committee is organizing this event with Audrey Loria's help. They've just begun their planning, so stay tuned for more details, but there's always room for extra volunteers. If you're interested, please contact Laura Krotky at lkrotky@comcast.net

Kate also provided an update from the School Committee Meeting. First, Kindergarten Orientation has been set for May 5th during the day. Information on K registration will be sent to homes in February. The committee voted to maintain the current schedule of a 3-day All Day Kindergarten program for next year.

Another discussion at the meeting was the growing population of school children across the Winchester school district, and the need for additional resources (teachers, aides, classrooms, etc.) Growth at Lincoln is expected to be between 12 and 24 students, the equivalent of an additional classroom. The superintendent, Bill McAlduff, recognizes the school-wide need for additional budget and resources, but the final budget will not be set until the population figures are better known.

Kate stated there is a desire to proceed with a May Day event despite the absence of Michelle Garciano, who is on maternity leave. This still needs to be confirmed, but the target date is May 27th (May 28th as a rain date.) Kate has also been asked about a Used Book sale, but is unsure if we should do given the amount of work involved.

News from the School Council: Kate is pleased to have Tom Groux as the new Safety Officer; he is training new crossing guards for the school already. The Winter Lockdown drill will probably occur next week sometime. This is a training drill for the students in case of an emergency. The children will be taken to assembly, and access to the school will be halted for ~20 minutes.

Finally, Kate informed the LSPA that Pascal Dangerville, our head custodian, is from Haiti, as is his wife. Most of his family living there have been accounted for after the earthquake. To help Haiti, Lincoln will hold a "Hats off for Haiti" day next Friday the 22nd. Children and staff can wear a hat during school hours if they donate whatever they are able. All proceeds will go to a charity of Pascal's choosing.

President's Report:

A few quick announcements from Linda McDonough:

1. The Trivia Bee will be held February 3rd in the evening at Town Hall. The 5th grade teams goes first, our team of adults is all set.
2. Suzanne Massiello passed along a schedule of talks for parents of special education children: for parents of children transitioning to the middle school, there will be a talk the morning of January 21st in the McCall library; for parents of children transitioning from the middle school to the high school, there will be a talk on January 28th; and on February 25th, Bill McAlduff will give his annual program on special education in Winchester.

The meeting was adjourned at 10am.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.